

Statement of Principles

concerning

SCHISTOSOMIASIS

ICD CODE: 120

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **schistosomiasis** and **death from schistosomiasis** can be related to operational service rendered by veterans, Peacekeeping service rendered by members of Peacekeeping Forces and hazardous service rendered by members of the Forces, the Repatriation Medical Authority determines, under subsection 196B(2) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act), that the factors that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **schistosomiasis** or **death from schistosomiasis** with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) being in contact with water in an area described in the Schedule before the clinical onset of schistosomiasis; or
 - (b) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for schistosomiasis.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(b)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
3. The factor set out in paragraph **1(b)** applies only where:

- (a) the person's **schistosomiasis** was contracted before a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
- (b) the relationship suggested between the **schistosomiasis** and the particular service of a person is a relationship set out in paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e), 70(5)(d) or 70(5A)(d) of the Act.

4. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

“an area described in the Schedule” means an area described in the Schedule attached to this instrument, such area being an area in which the *Schistosoma* blood fluke is known to be distributed;

“ICD code” means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in the tenth edition of the *International Classification of Diseases* 9th Revision, effective date of 1 October 1993, copyrighted by the US Commission on Professional and Hospital Activities, and having the Library of Congress number 77-94472;

“schistosomiasis” (otherwise known as bilharziasis) means infection by a parasite of the genus *Schistosoma*, (trematode flatworms, commonly known as blood flukes) being *S. mansoni*, *S. haematobium*, *S. japonicum*, *S. intercalatum*, *S. mekongi* or *S. malayensis*, attracting ICD code 120.

Schedule

Global Distribution of the *Schistosoma* Blood Fluke

COUNTRY or AREA	<i>mansoni</i>	<i>haematobium</i>	<i>intercalatum</i>	<i>japonicum</i>	<i>Mekong</i>	<i>malayensis</i>
African Region						
Algeria		+				
Angola	+	+				
Benin	+	+				
Botswana	+	+				
Burkino Faso	+	+				
Burundi	+					
Cameroon	+	+	+			
Central African Republic	+	+	+			
Chad	+	+	+			
Congo	+	+	+			
Equatorial Guinea	+	+	+			
Ethiopia	+	+				
Gabon	+	+	+			
Gambia	+	+				
Ghana	+	+				
Guinea-Bissau	+	+				
Guinea	+	+				
Ivory Coast	+	+				
Kenya	+	+				
Liberia	+	+				
Madagascar	+	+				
Malawi	+	+				
Mali	+	+				+
Mauritania	+					
Mauritius		+				
Mozambique	+	+				
Namibia	+	+				
Niger	+	+				
Nigeria	+	+				+
Rwanda	+					
São Tome and Principe		+	+			
Senegal	+	+				
Sierra Leone	+	+				
South Africa	+	+				
Swaziland	+	+				
Tanzania	+	+				
Togo	+	+				
Uganda	+	+				
Zaire	+	+				+
Zambia	+					
Zimbabwe	+	+				

(continued...)

COUNTRY or AREA	<i>mansoni</i>	<i>haematobium</i>	<i>intercalatum</i>	<i>japonicum</i>	<i>Mekong</i>	<i>malayensis</i>
Region of the Americas						
Antigua	+					
Brazil	+					
Dominican Republic	+					
Guadeloupe	+					
Martinique	+					
Montserrat	+					
Puerto Rico	+					
Saint Lucia	+					
Surinam	+					
Venezuela	+					
Eastern Mediterranean Region						
Egypt	+	+				
Iran		+				
Iraq		+				
Jordan		+				
Lebanon	+	+				
Libya	+	+				
Morocco	+	+				
Oman	+	+				
Saudi Arabia	+	+				
Somalia	+	+				
Sudan	+	+				
Syria		+				
Tunisia	+	+				
Yemen	+	+				
European Region						
Turkey		+				
Portugal		+				
South East Asia Region						
Indonesia				+		
Thailand				+		
India		+				
Western Pacific Region						
China				+		
Cambodia					+	
Japan				+		
Lao People's Republic					+	
Malaysia						+
Philippines				+		

Note: + denotes that a particular species of *Schistosoma* is distributed in that area.

Dated this *Twenty-first* day of *June*
1995

The Common Seal of the)
Repatriation Medical Authority)
was affixed to this instrument)
in the presence of:)

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN